

MINUTES OF THE CITY OF BURLINGTON
CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
September 20, 2010

The City Council of the City of Burlington held a regularly scheduled work session at the John Robert Kernodle Senior Activity Center, 1535 South Mebane Street, Burlington, N.C., on September 20, 2010, at 7 p.m.

Councilmembers present: Mayor Ronnie K. Wall, Mayor Pro Tem David Huffman, Councilmembers James Butler, Stephen M. Ross and Celo Faucette

Councilmembers absent: None

Harold Owen, City Manager, present

Robert M. Ward, City Attorney, present

Jondeen D. Terry, City Clerk, present

Other Staff Present: Frank Hope, Bob Harkrader, Mike Nunn, Daniel Shoffner, Nolan Kirkman, Bob Patterson, Jay Smith, Mike Williams, Lanny Rhew, Jason Geary, Michael Layne and Peggy Reece

Others Present: Dr. Russ Smith, Mr. Rynal Stephenson, Ramey Kemp Associates, and a college student

Media Present: Bob Boyer, Times-News; Tomas Murawski, Alamance News

A) Committee Reports

Councilmember Butler reported that he and Councilmember Huffman attended the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting. Will report on four or five projects after the next TAC meeting.

Councilmember Butler reported that the Alamance County Transportation Authority (ACTA) is moving along well with the Metropolitan Planning Organization's (MPO) and Bob Harkrader's assistance. The MPO is working on a local coordinated plan to assist ACTA in identifying sources for local matching funds.

Councilmember Ross reported that the streetscapes work had begun downtown. He said that the Board of Directors of the Burlington Downtown Corporation would be meeting on September 23, 2010. Councilmember Ross pointed out that the decorative crosswalks looked good and enhanced the downtown area.

Councilmember Ross pointed out that the fountain, which was a gift from the sister city in Mexico, had been installed at the City Park. He encouraged everyone to see and enjoy the impressive fountain. He said it was a great addition to the City Park.

Councilmember Faucette reported that he and Mayor Pro Tem Huffman attended the Chamber's Economic Development Committee meeting and that they discussed Microsoft. He commented that it was going to take the help of many groups to recruit new businesses to Alamance County.

Councilmember Faucette mentioned that Ms. Pat Yarbrough invited him to attend the Federation of the Blind state convention that was held in Burlington on September 11, 2010. He said it was a wonderful event and that he enjoyed it very much.

Mayor Wall reported that he had attended several meetings concerning the merger of the Piedmont Triad Council of Governments and the Northwest Piedmont Council of Governments including the four-man committee. He said the 18-member group voted to move forward and to begin discussing the merger with the local elected officials.

City Manager Owen said that on September 30, 2010, the Alamance County municipalities would meet together to discuss the merger.

B) Questions Concerning City Council Agenda

There were no questions concerning the agenda.

C) City Manager Comments

City Manager Owen thanked Council for its support of the 100th anniversary of the carousel. He also commended Jay Ashley, Times-News, for the many articles he wrote about the history of the carousel.

D) Annexations

City Manager Owen explained that tonight's discussions about annexations were a result of in-depth discussions at the Council retreat in January 2010.

Planning Director Bob Harkrader said staff would be coming soon with a request to annex City-owned property such as Lake Mackintosh. He said Council discussed a number of areas to the west but that staff was not recommending any of those areas at this time. He said that the present recommendations would fill in gaps north of I-40/85 and east of University Drive. He said, if approved, the proposed annexations would bring into the City University Drive from I-40/85 to Highway 70. Mr. Harkrader emphasized that more than 90% of the properties were already surrounded by City property.

Mr. Harkrader introduced Dr. Russ Smith.

Dr. Smith stated that he had investigated the eligibility and feasibility of bringing these properties into the City. He explained that when properties meet certain statute requirements, they are eligible to be brought into the City. He pointed out that City-initiated tracts can take over a year to finalize.

Dr. Smith said the following nine areas had met the statutory requirements to be annexed:

- 1) Alamance-Guilford County Line Area
- 2) Garden Road Area
- 3) Random Lane North Area
- 4) Random Lane South Area
- 5) Westview Terrace Area
- 6) Crouse Lane Area
- 7) Kirkpatrick Road Medical Offices Area
- 8) Greystone Condo Area
- 9) Airport Area

Dr. Smith pointed out that many of the areas already have City water and/or sewer.

Dr. Smith explained that if Council were to go through with the annexations, there would have to be a report of services for each area which have been prepared.

Dr. Smith discussed the timeline and said that it would be the same for each area. Council would adopt resolutions of intent on September 21, 2010, which starts the process. He explained that there would be notification of property owners, advertising, an informational meeting and public hearings. He stressed that adopting the resolutions of intent did not mean that Council was going to annex the properties. He said that decision would be made at the public hearing on December 7, 2010, and voted on at the December 21, 2010, Council meeting.

Dr. Smith reviewed an Annexation Report. He said that Burlington Police and Fire Departments would answer calls and trash would be picked up from the effective date of the annexations. He pointed out that all nine areas have infrastructure for water and sewer services.

Dr. Smith said the manual cost of the nine annexations would be \$210,000 and that the annual revenue would be approximately \$1 million. He pointed out that the City may lose water and sewer revenues because many property owners that will be brought into the City have been paying double water and sewer rates.

Mayor Wall asked how this would affect costs relative to fire services and Fire Chief Jay Smith responded there will be increased call volume but that it would not impact the fire study that was being conducted.

Dr. Smith informed Council that it would be asked to approve two separate items on the September 21, 2010, Council agenda. The first item will be the nine resolutions of intent which would begin the notification process. The second item will be the approval of the nine reports of services which specify what the City is going to provide and how it is going to provide services. He stated that the resolutions would set dates for the public informational meeting and the public hearings. He said staff hopes to answer a lot of questions prior to the public hearing at the meeting on November 10, 2010, at the Kernodle Senior Center. He said the public hearing would be held December 7, 2010.

Dr. Smith said that for tax billings, these annexations would become effective December 31, 2011. Once they are annexed, from that date water and sewer service must be extended within a total of three years.

Councilmember Faucette asked about two areas that were not included in the annexations, and Dr. Smith replied that those areas did not meet the statutory requirements.

E) Rural Retreat Road Extension Report - Ramey Kemp & Associates, Raleigh, NC.

Public Works Director Nolan Kirkman introduced Mr. Rynal Stephenson, Ramey Kemp & Associates, who did the functional study for Rural Retreat Road. Mr. Stephenson made the following report:

Benefits of Project

Connectivity

Parallel East-West corridor with Highway US70
Emergency Services (Fire, Police, EMS)
Public Services (sanitation, inspections, etc.)
Detour Routes
Interchanges
Parks
Western residents to commercial areas

New roadway will enhance economic development between US 70 and I-85/40.

Provides an enhanced pedestrian and bike network with connectivity between Davidson Park and Springwood Park.

Reduces traffic on Church Street, improving available capacity and safety.

Operations and Planning Study Results

Safety and capacity improves slightly on Church Street.
Crash rate on Church Street currently higher than state average.

New roadway would function adequately with one travel lane in each direction.

Existing and future demand for pedestrians and bicycles.

Environmental study has identified Back Creek crossing as the only significant environmental issue (possible bridge).

Reasonable access is provided to adjacent properties.

Design alternatives were developed to accommodate vehicles, pedestrians, and bikes.

- Detour Routes
- Interchanges
- Parks
- Western residents to commercial areas

Design Alternative Considerations

Multi-use path versus sidewalk (on north side).

Bike lanes on roadway or on multi-use path.

Median divided versus non-median divided roadway.

Curb and gutter versus shoulder/ditch section.

Alternatives selected:

Design Alternative A

- Three-lane roadway with center left turn lane
- Wider outside lanes to accommodate bicycles
- 10-foot multi-use path on north side
- 65-foot right-of-way

Design Alternative B

- Two-lane median divided roadway
- 85-foot right-of-way
- 23-foot grass median
- Striped bike lane on each outside lane
- 10-foot multi-use path on north side

Design Alternative C

- Two-lane roadway
- 65-foot right-of-way
- Wide outside lanes for bikes
- No multi-use path or sidewalk

Comparison of Design Alternatives

	<u>Undivided Facility</u>	<u>Median-Divided Facility</u>
Emergency Vehicle Access	-no access limitations	- access is limited and may require u-turns at median breaks - large vehicles may run onto/over curb
Control of Access	- less control of access - more full-movement intersections - more conflict points	- greater control of access - fewer full-movement intersections - fewer conflict points
Design Features	- with center turn lane, no disruption to traffic is necessary to construct left turn lanes for future developments - Similar to other area roadways	- 23' median allows for zero offset for left turn lanes at intersections - provides pedestrian refuge at crossings
Right-of-Way	- requires less right-of-way	- requires more right-of-way
Cost	- less expensive	-more expensive -additional maintenance cost for median landscaping



Cost Estimate Comparison

	Alternative A (3-Lane Section)	Alternative B (Median Section)	Alternative C (2-Lane Section)
Construction Cost (includes utility adj.)	\$ 5.7 M - \$ 6.9 M	\$ 5.9 M - \$ 7.0 M	\$ 3.9 M - \$ 4.5 M
Design and Permitting	\$ 0.6 M - \$ 0.7 M	\$ 0.6 M - \$ 0.7 M	\$ 0.4 M - \$ 0.5 M
Right-of-Way	\$ 1.6 M	\$ 2.1 M	\$ 1.6 M
Total Cost	\$ 7.9 M - \$ 9.2 M	\$ 8.6 M \$ 9.8 M	\$ 5.8 M - \$ 6.6 M

Note: Cost is an estimate only based on limited information



Project Timeline

Project Element*	Duration
Public Involvement	2-3 months
Design	8-12 months
Environmental	6-14 months (depending on funding sources)
Right-of-way Acquisition	12 months
Construction	18-24 months
Total Length	~3.5 – 4.5 years
*some elements overlap	



Mr. Stephenson pointed out that Rural Retreat Road is just less than one and one-half miles and that the alignment runs adjacent to an overhead utility easement.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned.

Jondeen D. Terry, City Clerk